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THE USSR AGAINST BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE

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Emperor Hirohito of Japan should be tried by International Court as a War Criminal

On 30 May 1950, at the direction of the Soviet Government, the USSR charged 'affaires at Washington and the Ambassador at London delivered a note to the governments of the US and of Great Britain concerning bringing Emperor Hirohito of Japan and several generals to trial before an international court. The text of the note was the following:

"On 1 February 1950, at the direction of the Soviet Government, the Ambassador sent a note to you concerning the results of an open, criminal trial of Yamada, Takahashi, Kajitsuka and other Japanese war criminals before the military tribunal of Primerskiy Kray at Khabarovsk from 25 to 30 December 1949. The judiciary proceedings established that: the Japanese commanding circles, headed by Emperor Hirohito, for many years were secretly engaged in preparing bacteriological warfare -- one of the most inhuman weapons of aggression -- against the USSR, China, the US, and Great Britain.

It was also established in the trial that the convicted Japanese not only prepared, but used the bacteriological weapon several times in carrying out their aggressive plans: in 1939 against the Mongolian Peoples Republic, and against the USSR in the vicinity of the Khalkha River; and in 1940-1942 during the war with China, when Japanese Army bacteriological campaigns caused parasitic and typhus epidemics.

The aforementioned note indicated that according to facts verified in the Khabarovsk trial, Emperor Hirohito and Generals Isii Shiro, former commander of the 731st Division, Kitano Nasaso, also former commander of the 731st Division, Wakamatsu Jiro, former commander of the 110th Division, and Kasahara Yukie, former chief of staff of the Kwantung army, also played leading roles in development of the bacteriological campaign.

Because the use of bacteriological weapons was prohibited long ago by civilized nations, as the most dire crime conflicting with the honor and the conscience of nations, and was prohibited by the minutes of Geneva 17 June 1925, the Soviet Government, in its note of 1 February moved that a special international court be formed as soon as possible, and Emperor Hirohito and Generals Isii Shiro, Kitano Nasaso, Wakamatsu Jiro, and Kasahara Yukie be tried by this court.

The ambassador deems it necessary to call attention to the fact that although more than three months have elapsed since the above note was delivered, no answer has yet been received. At the direction of the Soviet Government, the Ambassador calls attention to this lapse, and anticipates that the US Government will reply shortly to the 1 February note of the USSR."

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